

3. Additions to the List of the Avifauna of Australia, with Descriptions of Three New Species. By JOHN GOULD, Esq., F.R.S., &c.

The following birds have been lately transmitted to me by my brother-in-law, Mr. Charles Coxen of Brisbane in Queensland, and were, I believe, collected by John Jardine, Esq., late Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Cape York district, a portion of Australia so near to New Guinea and the Aru Islands that we need not be surprised if some of the species prove to be identical with, or offer a close resemblance to, species previously described as inhabitants of those but partially explored islands.

The first species is an additional member of those insect-loving little birds known under the generic title of *Gerygone*, and exhibits such strongly marked distinctive characters that it cannot for a moment be confounded with any of its allies.

GERYGONE PERSONATA.

Crown and all the upper surface olive-green; throat and chest deep olive-brown; behind each nostril a spot of white; a stripe of white also descends from the base of the bill down each side of the neck, and separates the deep olive-brown of the throat from the lighter olive of the ear-coverts; axillæ, all the under surface of the body, and the under tail-coverts delicate jonquil-yellow; wings and tail olive-brown; bill and legs olive-black.

Total length $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, bill $\frac{1}{2}$, wing $2\frac{3}{8}$, tail $1\frac{3}{4}$, tarsi $\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. The Cape York district of Queensland.

The second bird has many characters in common with the *Ptilotis chrysotis* of the south-eastern portion of Australia and the *Ptilotis similis*, a bird brought from Dorey by Mr. Wallace; but it differs from both in the greater slenderness of its form, in its diminutive size, and, especially from the former, in the uniform colouring of its throat and abdomen.

PTILOTIS GRACILIS.

Bill deep olive-brown, with a naked yellow fleshy gape, posterior to which is an obscure narrow line of yellow; a well-defined patch of pale yellow on the ear-coverts; crown and all the upper surface olive, the uniformity of which is only broken by a slight edging of wax-yellow on the outer edges of the primaries and tail-feathers; axillæ and the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries pale buffy yellow; primaries and tail-feathers brown; feet dark olive-brown.

Total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, bill $\frac{7}{8}$, wing $2\frac{3}{4}$, tail $2\frac{1}{2}$, tarsi $\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. The Cape York district of Queensland.

MONARCHA ALBIVENTRIS.

This Cape York bird is very nearly allied to the more southern *M. trivirgata*, but differs not only from that species, but from

another, of which examples are contained in my own and Mr. Wallace's collections from Timor, and a fourth from Batchian. Although these four birds are intimately allied, they possess distinctive characters by which each of them may be readily recognized. As I have here only to deal with the Australian members of the genus, I shall content myself with remarking that this new species is to be distinguished from the southern *M. trivirgata* by the unsullied whiteness of its axillaries, abdomen, and lower part of its flanks, by the black of the forehead and throat being somewhat more extensive, and by the larger size of the white terminal portion of the outer tail-feathers.

Bill and legs olive lead-colour; forehead and a narrow stripe above the eye, upper portion of the ear-coverts, and the throat jet-black; cheeks, lower part of the neck, and the chest bright ferruginous; abdomen, axillaries, and a considerable portion of the under surface of the wing snow-white; crown of the head, back of the neck, and back bluish grey; primaries greyish brown; upper tail-coverts and tail black, the three outer feathers of the latter largely tipped with white.

Total length $5\frac{7}{8}$ inches, bill $\frac{3}{4}$, wing 3, tail $2\frac{7}{8}$, tarsi $\frac{3}{4}$.

Hab. The Cape York district of Queensland.

I am also enabled to add to the list of Australian Birds, published by me in my lately issued 'Handbook to the Birds of Australia,' the following species—

RALLINA TRICOLOR, G. R. Gray, P. Z. S. 1858, p. 188,
a bird brought by Mr. Wallace from the Aru Islands.

Of this species of Water-Rail, which appears to be common in the New Guinea group of islands, an example has been sent to me from the Cape York district, and the bird will doubtless be hereafter found in other parts of northern Australia.

HYDROCHELIDON LEUCOPTERA (Meisn. & Sch.).

Schlegel having, I believe, given Celebes as one of the localities of this species, it will not be a matter of surprise that two examples should occur in the Cape York collection. Of these one is certainly immature, the other in a dress which is probably that of winter.

4. On a New Genus and Species of Birds from Madagascar. By Dr. G. HARTLAUB, F.M.Z.S.

EROESSA, n. g.

Char. Gen.—*Rostr. longiusculum, gracillimum, rectum, acutum, vix emarginatum, apicem versus magis magisque compressum, culmine valde carinato, dimidio apicali parum arcuato; gonyde recta; vibrissis vix ullis; naribus lamella cornea clausis. Alæ quadrato-obtusæ, caudæ medium superantes; remige primo*